

1-502nd gets down to business in live fire exercise

“Prepare for the unknown by studying how others in the past have coped with the unforeseeable and the unpredictable”

-Gen. George Patton



"Basically, this is what we will be doing in Iraq," he said. "It's good for me to get this here instead of going to Iraq and having no experience at all."

A LOOK BACK AT 2ND BRIGADE HISTORY

December 12, 1985: The Gander Tragedy

December 12, 1985.

Where were you that day?

Most people would recall shopping at the mall for gifts for their family and friends, or preparing for holiday parties and celebrations.

For many people that cold wet morning will forever live in their hearts and minds.

They are the grieving family and friends who had their loved ones taken so suddenly away. 19 years ago 248 Screaming Eagle Soldiers were loading onto an Arrow Air DC-8 Aircraft, excited with the anticipation of sharing the holidays with their families after being deployed for 6 months.

But they never made it home.

The plane crashed not far from the runway in Gander, New Foundland. All 248 Soldiers, as well as 8 crew members, died in the disaster.

Twenty eight of the Soldiers were from different units within the division, but the rest were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.

The Soldiers were assigned to Task Force 3-502nd. They were returning from a peace keeping mission in Egypt as part of the United Nation's Multinational Forces and

Observers mission. Their mission was to verify compliance with the security arrangements of a 1979 Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace.

This plane crash is one of Canada's largest and most deadly aircraft tragedies in history.

Though they are missed, they are not forgotten. After the tragedy a number of memorials were raised in the Soldiers honor. In 1987 Fort Campbell dedicated Task Force 3-502nd Memorial Park to their fallen comrades, a monument in Gander was raised and a tree park in Hopkinsville was built to remember the sacrifices of the Soldiers and their families.

A memorial service was held on the anniversary to mourn the loss and honor the memory of the 248 Fort Campbell Soldiers who perished in the plane crash.

In the Fort Campbell Memorial Park family and friends of the fallen warriors gathered silently around the memorial where a large bronze statue of a Soldier looking into the distance stands tall over stone slates bearing the names of all the Soldiers who perished in the Gander crash.

Lt. Col. Alfonso Ahuja, 3-502nd Infantry Regiment commander, was given the honor to lay a wreath at the foot of the statue in mem-

ory of the lives that were lost that cold December morning 19 years ago.

After seeing the park and laying the wreath, Ahuja reflected on what it means to him that the community surrounding the post came together to remember these Soldiers.

"When a community takes the time to establish a memorial and then follow up year after year by having a small-simple ceremony to say 'we have not forgotten, we remember,' it shows a commitment to the Soldier," he said looking back at the memorial. "It reminds me why I have stayed in the Army so long, to see that people care. Whether it is another Soldier or a local community that wants to say 'we appreciate what you do.'"

As a community, the tragedy hit home for many people in Hopkinsville. 36 Soldiers who were on the plane were either from Hopkinsville or had personal connections to the town, said Carter Hendricks, Military Affairs Director of Hopkinsville.

"Each year [the community] has this ceremony to get straight to the heart of those who sacrificed for their country," he said. "It is one of those symbols to show you remember what [the Soldiers] have done, that you remember their sacrifice and that you are eternally grateful for their sacrifice."

19 years later, a community still remembers



Photos by Pfc. Kelly K. McDowell

Commander's notes

First, let me welcome everyone back from our holiday leave opportunity. I trust each of us was able to spend some time with families and friends and reflect on our achievements and blessings over the past year.

Second, let me thank each Soldier now, in advance, for what will be expected of us in the upcoming year. There is no doubt, the year 2005 is going to be a busy year for everyone in the "STRIKE" BCT as we prepare for our next rendezvous with destiny.

In short order, we will deploy and fight an enemy who would rather not see us or our families enjoy our freedoms. We will do so, on land that is not ours and not theirs, but that which belongs to innocent Iraqis. This enemy that threatens our fundamental freedoms and those of others not like them "are the most despicable enemy I've ever seen. They fly airplanes into buildings filled with innocent people (9/11), "they operate from mosques, they behead people, they have killed far more Muslims than non-Muslims." They respect nothing we value as sacred. We will not let this enemy have sanctuary in Iraq only to fight us and others not like him on his terms.

Given this, we must not count the days before our deployment, we must make everyday count! The Iraq we left in 2004 is not the Iraq we will face in 2005. All of us must train hard at Fort Campbell and at JRTC. All of us must account for and maintain our equipment. All of us must continue to sacrifice for something greater than ourselves. We must accept that when we're not training, our enemy is, and if we're not trained, he'll beat us. We must prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies. We must be fit and tough and we must form cohesive teams where it's clearly understood each of us do indeed count.

"A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing he cares more about than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

We are those better men.

STRIKE!

2nd Brigade Combat Team Safety Focus

Carbon monoxide poisoning is deadly. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned. Hundreds of people die each year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning apparatuses and idling vehicles.

Know the symptoms of CO poisoning. At moderate levels, you or your team members can get severe headaches, become dizzy, mentally confused, nauseated, or faint. You can die if these levels persist for an extended period of time. Low levels can cause shortness of breath, mild nausea, and mild headaches and could have long term effects on your health.

As a Strike Soldier you are an important member of our team. Follow these simple DON'T rules when it comes to carbon monoxide prevention.

Don't sleep in an idling vehicle.

Don't use an unauthorized heater in an enclosed tent or building.

Don't use a charcoal grill indoors.

Don't use gasoline powered engines in small places.

Don't ignore the carbon monoxide symptoms.

Strike Safety

2ND SPEAKS OUT

What is your new years resolution?



Pv2 Sheila Solis, HHC 2nd BCT:

"Improve my run and get my drivers license"



Spc. Wendell Banks, HHC 2nd BCT:

"To quit smoking."

Pfc. Justin Perez, Alpha Troop 3-502nd:

"Go to Ranger school and promote to E-4"



Pfc. Tyler Snyder, Charlie Co. 3-502nd "CHAOS"

"Try to get along with my family better."



"STRIKE" Soldiers in the field



2-502nd TCP training



The Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, got a glimpse of realistic situations during their field training exercises last week.

Each company within the Battalion took part in squad training exercise simulating the conditions and expectations in Iraq. The main focus of the training was security.

"Security is ninety percent of what we do in Iraq," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Hunter, acting platoon leader for Alpha Company, 2nd platoon. "This training gives the Soldiers a real look at how the tasks are performed."

The training scenario began with a convoy enroute to set up a Traffic Control Point. At random points along the road the Soldiers were faced with simulated Improvised Explosive Devices, ambushes and road side attacks from other Soldiers roll playing as insurgents.

Once the Soldiers reach their predetermined destination they quickly secure the area and set up a Traffic Control Point where their main mission is to search vehicles for weapons, munitions and other contraband that are not authorized to enter or leave the area.

"The basics of the training pertain to everything you do when you are on patrol," said Staff Sgt. James Skurzewski, platoon sergeant 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company. "It lays the fundamentals down that every Soldier needs to know, and it helps build a standard operating procedure for the future."

Hunter said the squads are all given a mission to accomplish; they are given enough time to evaluate and plan their execution of the task. The Soldiers then go out on patrol and experience the situation first hand.

"Reacting to an IED was the most difficult thing to deal with," Skurzewski said. "It happens so fast."

Spc. John Sullivan, Alpha Company Team Leader was situated in the lead vehicle of his convoy when the simulated IED went off in the beginning of their patrol.

"Before you know it, there is a lot of shooting," he said. "It's good training. You learn to keep your eyes open because everything can change in a split second."

Sullivan stressed how important the training was to the new Soldiers in the unit.

"In real life, situations like that really happen. Your on patrol, pulling security and everything is going fine then an IED goes off when you least expect it," he said. "It is really a wake up call for new Soldiers."



Photos by Pfc. Kelly K. McDowell

Photo information:

(Above) A 2nd Brigade Combat Team Soldier mans the M-240 Bravo Machine Gun during a Traffic Control Point exercise. (Left) A 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Soldier secures the rear of the convoy while the rest of the Soldiers set up the traffic control point. (Far Left) Soldiers lay on the ground acting as insurgents who just attacked the convoy on its way to the traffic control point. Two Soldiers carefully approach the vehicle to inspect for further threats.



2nd BCT Soldier recognized for selfless service to community

A 1st Battalion Soldier, along with two other Fort Campbell Soldiers, rose above others as they put their safety aside to assist a young woman in need at a Clarksville shopping center.



Sgt. Chip Arrington (Far right) stands next to a 4th BCT and 3rd BCT Soldier as Clarksville Mayor Don Trotter addresses members of the community and police force about their courage and presents the Soldiers with a certificate of gratitude for their actions.

CLARKSVILLE— It was a Sunday like any other during the holiday season in Clarksville. People running in and out of the shopping centers searching for the perfect gift for their friends and loved ones.

There were three separate Soldiers with three separate lives, each with different reasons for being there that day. None of these three Fort Campbell Soldiers knew each other, but in a matter of minutes circumstances would change.

Sgt. Chip Arrington, 1-502nd, Bravo Company, had just finished his shopping for the day and was putting his bags in the back of his truck when he heard a scream.

Curious about the commotion, he walked closer to the subject of his query. As he approached, his legs began to move faster until he broke into a run, it was an instinctual reaction to the words he heard.

"Help, he's stealing my purse!"

He reacted quickly, grabbing the purse as the assailant began to drive away. Arrington held tight to the purse, running beside the car and fighting the man continuously until he finally won the battle. He promptly turned around and returned the purse to the young woman and checked to see that she was unharmed.

It was the same commotion that alerted Spc. Christopher Thompson, 4th Brigade Combat Team, when he and his family were returning to their car.

He witnessed the getaway car attempting to flee, and with out concern for his own safety, he stepped in front of the car and smashed the drivers side window in an attempt to stop the assailants.

Meanwhile, Spc. Jeremy Galusha, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, also reacted to the cries for help and ran after the vehicle. Acting on instinct, he did what he could to intervene.

He noticed a plastic bag covering the license plate on the getaway vehicle and promptly ripped it off so he could get the number.

Because of their concern for the safety of others and their clear dedication to upholding the Army core values, they were honored by the city of Clarksville, the Mayor of Clarksville Don Trotter, and the Chief of Police Mark Smith at a small, sincere ceremony where they were each given a certificate of appreciation.

"For the past sixty years [Clarksville] has had a wonderful working relationship with Fort Campbell. Clarksville becomes a better city because of [Soldiers] such as yourselves," he said to the three Soldiers standing next to him.

He explained that the Soldiers took it upon themselves to protect someone else and their property. Trotter continued to praise the efforts of the three Fort Campbell Soldiers.

"Not only are these Soldiers risking their lives for our country, but they are also helping to make our community a better place to live," he said.

Arrington simply said he could not just stand by and let someone do such a thing to another person. He just had to make an effort to keep it from happening.

"It felt good to know the [the Soldiers] help out in the community," Arrington said. "It is one of those things we do as Soldiers."

BRAVO TROOP, 3-502ND UNFURLS CAVALRY COLORS, WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

The Soldiers of Bravo Troop, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry (RSTA), formed on the field in front of the dining facility to bid farewell to their commander and welcome in a new commander.

Outgoing commander Cpt. Jeremy Smith took command of Delta Company 3-502nd Infantry Regiment in June 2003 while the unit was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He commanded the company until the deactivation of the unit and the formation of B Troop 3-502nd (RSTA) in September 2004.

Incoming Commander Cpt. Matthew Ruckman was commissioned as an armor officer in May 1999. His first duty assignment was at Fort Hood, Tx., from 2000 to 2003 with 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. There he served as Battalion Assistant Operations Officer, Tank Platoon Leader, Tank Company Executive Officer and Battalion S-4. Ruckman's military schooling includes the Armor Officer Basic Course and the Armor Captains Career Course.

Each of the Soldiers stood tall as the traditional colors of the cavalry were unfurled and held high in front of their formation.

"It is a bittersweet day, leaving behind the best group of Soldiers I could have worked with," Smith said, gazing out to the field where his troops were standing. "I am proud to have served with the 'Mad Dogs.'"

He applauded the troops ability to reflect what every unit should be obligated to hold true.

"Mission accomplishment, flexibility, discipline, comradery and honor."

As the ceremony came to a close the troop greeted their new commander with respect and pride.



Photos by Pfc. Kelly K. McDowell



(Top) Bravo Troop Commander unfurls the traditional colors of the cavalry. (Bottom) The first sergeant passes the colors to the incoming commander. The passing of the colors represents the commanders assumption of command.



Photo by Pfc. Kelly K. McDowell

Soldiers, family and friends gather at the 502nd Infantry Regiment DFAC patio waiting for the ceremony to begin.

2nd BCT NCO and Soldier of the Quarter

On December 1, 2004 six Soldiers went before a board to compete for the Soldier and NCO of the quarter for 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The units represented at the board were 1-320th, 1-502nd, 3-502nd and 311th. There were three NCO's and three Soldiers competing for the title of Soldier/NCO of the Quarter.

The board consisted of Command Sgt. Major Brian Stall, president of the board, Command Sgt. Major Rodney Felder, 526th BSB, Command Sgt. Major David Lindsay, 1-320th FA, and 1st Sgt. William Wilder, D Company

1-502nd IN.

After a brief inspection the Soldiers were asked a variety of questions testing their military knowledge.

At the end, only one Soldier and NCO could be chosen for the privilege of the title.

The Soldiers chosen by the board were Sgt. Brian Darden, C Company 3-502nd RSTA, and Spc. Thomas Martin, D Company 1-502nd IN.

"Every Soldier represented their unit very well," said Stall. "It is a good experience for Soldiers to appear before senior NCO's to maximize their potential."

MWR Calendar

If you are interested in taking college classes contact the Army Education Center or call:

Austin Peay University (931) 221-1400

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (931) 431-9698

Hopkinsville Community College (931) 431-9777

Active duty military should call 798-5886 for financial aid information.

8th: Military appreciation night at Austin Peay University. Come watch a basketball game for free. The Governors take on Eastern Illinois University.

14th and 15th: MWR Southern Winter-fest at Destiny Parks and Pavillions.

BOSS Calendar

January 15th: 3 on 3 Basketball at the new PFC on Lifeliner Road.

14th: Post wide Bowling Tournament at the Hooper Bowling Alley.

19th: Veteran's Home visit. Wear your Class A's please.

24th and 25th: BOSS installation training workshop.

Coming soon

March BOSS Trip to the Bahamas.

For more information call the BOSS office.

For further Information on BOSS activities call: 798-7858 or 798-7837.

Office hours are 7am through 4:30 pm.

MWR Calendar Continued...

Saturday, January 29, 2005:

Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus at the Gaylord Entertainment Center at 7:30 pm.

Ticket prices are: \$16.75, \$11.75 and \$7.75 per person.

Tickets available through ITR Leisure Travel

Phone: (270) 798-7436 or (270) 798-0509

Fax: (270) 439-7819

Purchase Deadline is January 21st.

Friday, January 21, 2005:

Freestyle Motocross at the Gaylord Entertainment Center at 8:00 pm.

Ticket prices are: \$15.00 Active Duty and \$8.00 for children 12 years and younger.

Tickets available through ITR Leisure Travel

Phone: (270) 798-7436 or (270) 798-0509

Fax: (270) 439-7819

Purchase Deadline is January 14th.

Coming Soon

March ITR Travel Expo and Golf Scramble at Cole Park Commons. For info call 798-0509

Tell us what you think:

What you would like to see in your 2nd BCT Newsletter?

Call Sfc. Rowe at the 2nd BCT Public Affairs Office 798-4857, or visit our office in 2nd BCT Headquarters.

2nd BCT Run

January 7, 2005 - 2nd BCT stepped off for a brigade run. (Right) Soldiers from 1-502nd return from the four mile run.



(Left) HHC, 2-502nd Infantry Battalion return from the run voices loud and booming cadences.

(Right) Brigade commander Col. Todd Ebel addresses the entire brigade at the close of the 2nd BCT run.



(Above) A birds eye view of the brigade at the end of the run.

TRAINING CALENDAR



February

Feb. 4: Payday Activities.

Feb. 16– Mar. 3: Refit Cycle.

Feb. 7-11: BCT FTX Entire BCT in field

Feb. 18-21: Presidents Day DONSA.

Feb. 14-17: 311th Marksman-ship Week.

Feb. 22-25: 3-502nd and 1-320th Marksmanship Week.



March

Mar. 4– Mar. 27: Collective training, JRTC Prep

Mar. 4: Payday Activities.

Mar. 18: DONSA.

Mar. 24: JRTC ADVON Deploy.

Mar. 27-30: Main Body Deploy.

April

April 4-10: JRTC "In the Box."

April 13-27: Re-Deploy from JRTC.

April 15: Last day to file federal taxes.

April 18, 22 and 29: DONSA days.



May

May 1-10: Division War-fighter Exercise.

May 6: Payday Activities.

May 13: DONSA

May 23-27: Week of the Eagles.

May 27-30: Memorial Day Weekend.



June

June 3: Payday Activities.

June 18-20: DONSA.

June 18-July 22: Max Leave window, 2 weeks max per person.

JULY

July 2-5: Independence Day DONSA

July 11-28: Germany MRX for brigade staff and select battalion personnel

July 24– Aug. 20: Max collective training period.





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